

Pinch Pots

Pinching small pots from balls of clay, using only the fingers as tools, is one of the most ancient pottery techniques.

Although it can be thought of as being the simplest pottery forming technique it is capable of exhibiting refined and subtle qualities.

Process of making a pinch pot:

- Make a depression with the thumbs in the ball of clay.
- Gradually thin the walls with gentle pressure between your thumb and fingers.
- Smooth all edges to eliminate small cracks.
- Walls should not be thicker than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch when you are done.

Learning Targets:

- Create a series of two small (3"-4" high and no more than 4" in diameter) purposeful– utilitarian pinch pots formed from pinching hand-building techniques.
- Maintain a wall thickness between 1/4 – 3/8 inch throughout the piece.
- Keep craftsmanship in mind, interiors should be smoothed, and make sure to remove all unnecessary clay burrs and rough edges.
- Be creative in adding unique characteristics to make this piece your own through the use of the elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space, form)
- When ready for the first fire (Bisque Fire) sign or initial all work and place to the right of the kiln.

Figurines

Clay figurines have been around for thousands of years and have been used for many purposes. Some cultures have created them for fertility purposes, others for toys or as gifts left in tombs to help a deceased king in his after-life. The first emperor of China in 221 B.C. had thousands of life size militia men created out of clay to accompany him in his tomb for his afterlife. Today many figurines are created for collectable or aesthetic purposes.

Process of making a figurine:

- Using the modeling hand-building technique mold figurines out of clay.
- Attach all pieces while clay is wet for best results.
- Hollow out any form or piece that will be thicker than ½ inch or areas that are thicker than the rest of the piece.

Learning Targets:

- Create a series of two small (4"-6" tall) aesthetically pleasing figurines formed from modeling hand-building techniques
- Keep craftsmanship in mind, paying close attention to detail and making sure to remove all unnecessary clay burrs and rough edges.
- Be creative in adding unique characteristics to make this piece your own through the use of the elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, space, form)
- When ready for the first fire (Bisque Fire) sign or initial all work and place to the right of the kiln.

National Art Standards:

- **Content Standard #1:** Understanding and applying media, techniques, and processes.
- **Content Standard #2:** Using knowledge of structures and functions.
- **Content Standard #4:** Understanding the visual arts in relation to history and cultures.